



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

September 19, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush Creates New Terrorist Information Center

GovExec, September 16, 2003

In a press briefing, senior administration officials said the new Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), established at Bush's order, would ensure that government investigators, airline passenger screeners and other agents work from "the same unified, comprehensive set of anti-terrorist information."

- [Plan for Counterterror Database Unveiled](#), *Washington Post*, September 17

Homeland Security Department Partners with CERT

InfoWorld, September 15, 2003

The Department of Homeland Security announced Monday that it is partnering with Carnegie Mellon's CERT which will involve the department's National Cyber Security Division to coordinate the prevention of, protection from and response to cyberattacks.

- [Homeland Security Announces Cybersecurity Initiatives](#), *Federal Times Online*, September 15

Ridge to Appeal to Citizenry for Thoughts on Homeland Security

GovExec, September 16, 2003

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Tuesday launched a new initiative designed to engage citizens in homeland security efforts in which the Council for Excellence in Government will host a series of town-hall meetings with local and state officials, first responders, and citizen groups.

- [Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge Speaks at the Council for Excellence in Government](#), *DHS Press Release*, September 16

Homeland Security Wants to Tweak Terror Alert System

Knox News, September 16, 2003

The agency has created a task force to review ways that its color-coded terror alert system could provide more specific guidance to state and local government officials about how to respond when the alert level is raised.

- [Task Force to Review Terror Alert System](#), *Herald News*, September 15

FEDERAL DIARY: Homeland Security Prepares to Combine Inspections

Kansas City Star, September 16, 2003

The reorganization at the Department of Homeland Security took a huge step forward this month with the announcement that customs, immigration and agriculture inspections would be combined into one job at ports of entry.

Cybersecurity Forum Planned

Federal Computer Week, September 16, 2003

The Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Division will hold a forum in the fall for federal, state and local government agencies, and all portions of the private sector, to determine the details of executing the priorities outlined in the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace.

Homeland Security Emergency Response Resources in Place for Isabel

DHS Press Release, September 18, 2003

FEMA, part of DHS since March 1, has moved medical teams, communications equipment and personnel and more than 70 semi-trailers loaded with water, cots, tents, generators, portable toilets, emergency meals and plastic sheeting to states predicted to be in Isabel's path.

CONGRESS

House, Senate Negotiators Back Small Homeland Security Budget Boost

GovExec, September 17, 2003

House and Senate negotiators on Wednesday agreed to fund the Homeland Security Department at \$29.4 billion for fiscal 2004, an increase of \$535.8 million or 1.8 percent above the fiscal 2003 enacted levels and \$1 billion, or 3.7 percent, above President Bush's request.

- [Spending Plan for Department of Homeland Security Moves Ahead](#), *NY Times*, September 17

Committee Passes Homeland Security Spending Bill

The Chatanoogan, September 17, 2003

The Homeland Security Conference Committee voted on the final version of the first ever Homeland Security Appropriations bill which includes a total of \$29.4 billion for operations and activities for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year of 2004; this represents \$1 billion over the President's request.

- [House, Senate Agree on Homeland Security Funds](#), *Associated Press*, September 17

Homeland Security Misses Reporting Deadlines

GovExec, September 18, 2003

The Homeland Security Department has missed deadlines set by the House Appropriations Committee to assess the cost, scope and timetable for technology-related projects.

RECENT HEARINGS

- [Homeland Security: Information Sharing Challenges](#), House Select Committee on Homeland Security, September 17

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Preparing for the Worst

Herald Mail, September 16, 2003

A CERT program designed to teach emergency preparedness to Washington County residents will get off the ground in November and will include police representatives, emergency medical personnel, and firefighters in an effort to “train the trainers.”

Homeland Security Funds Coming for Emergency Services

Star Press, September 17, 2003

Muncie local emergency services learned this week they would receive more than \$90,000 in federal Homeland Security funds to improve equipment that would be used to respond to terrorist acts.

New York City - Schumer ``Report Card'' Finds Gaps in Homeland Security Efforts

NY Newsday, September 14, 2003

New York Senator Schumer claims the government needs to screen more cargo that often is transported on passenger planes, check for radioactive material on containers arriving on ships and probe trucks entering the state in order to secure the region against another terrorist attack.

County Lobbies Federal Officials for Homeland Security Facility in Homestead

Miami Today, September 18, 2003

Miami-Dade County wants the federal government to create a Homeland Security training facility at the former Homestead Air Force Base and is pumping up lobbying in the next month to persuade officials.

Homeland Security Opens Regional Office

Elk Valley Times, September 17, 2003

The Middle Tennessee Regional Homeland Security office, scheduled to open later this month, will serve to coordinate federal, state and homeland security efforts including supporting local officials in planning, training, exercises, operations and grant funding, as well as improving information flow to the communities of Middle Tennessee.

Nation's Mayors Seek Money Promised for Homeland Security

FoxNews, September 18, 2003

Mayors from the nation's largest cities expressed frustration over delays in receiving billions of dollars of promised federal funds intended to help them prepare and react to possible terrorist attacks.

➤ [Counterterror Aid Is Tied Up by the States, Mayors Assert](#), *NY Times*, September 18

Homeland Security Concerns Continue

Indian Country Today, September 22, 2003

Like tribes everywhere in America, the Blackfeet have had difficulty getting attention or money from the Department of Homeland Security and claim they have received no anti-terrorism funding to date while ill-equipped police and tribal officers patrol their isolated borders only sporadically.

Terror to Strike County as Part of Emergency Preparedness Drill

Anoka County Union, September 18, 2003

A drill simulating a terrorist attack will involve police and fire units from all over Anoka County, Coon Rapids public works crews, Anoka County health and environmental services, specialized hazardous materials response teams, the Anoka County Coroner's Office, Allina Transportation, and Mercy and Unity Hospitals.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Wildland Fire Management: Additional Actions Required to Better Identify and Prioritize Lands Needing Fuels Reduction](#), GAO 03-805, September 2003
- [Congressional Reports: Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001](#), Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 2003
- [Homeland Security: Information Sharing Responsibilities, Challenges, and Key Management Issues](#), GAO-03-1165T, September 2003
- [FIRST MAYORS' REPORT TO THE NATION: Tracking Federal Homeland Security Funds Sent to the 50 State Governments](#), U.S. Conference of Mayors, September 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.